

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: NPG: APRIL 10 STAFF GROUP

REF: (A) USNATO 3556 (DTG 071434Z APR 78)
(B) USNATO 3473 (DTG 051945Z APR 78)
(C) STATE 88229 (DTG 060211Z APR 78) NOTAL
(D) USNATO 3642 (DTG 101354Z APR 78)
(E) SECDEF 5787 (DTG 080035Z APR 78)

SUMMARY: AT APRIL 10 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (1) DEFERRED ACTION ON NIKE HERCULES PENDING US REP'S RECEIPT OF GUIDANCE (SEE COMMENT PARA 2 BELOW); (2) DISCUSSED HANDLING OF TNF MODERNIZATION AT THE DPC AND SUMMIT; AND (3) QUERIED US REP ON LANCE AND 8" HOWITZER MODERNIZATION REFLECTED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S ERW DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APRIL 10 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING, ALLIED REPS WERE PREPARED TO WORK THE REVISED DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT ON
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NIKE HERCULES (RES A), BUT DEFERRED ACTION SINCE US REP (WOODWORTH) REPORTED THAT HE WAS AWAITING GUIDANCE.

2. COMMENT. FURTHER TO OUR COMMENTS IN REF B, IN WHICH WE SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARY BROWN TAKE UP THE NIKE HERCULES ISSUE WITH HIS FRG AND BELGIAN COUNTERPARTS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT RESULTS OF BILATERAL CONTACTS COULD TAKE

SOME TIME TO CRYSTALLIZE. SUCH DELAY COULD FURTHER DEFER ACTIONS RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR SITE SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAM. IF THERE ARE INCREASED COSTS OR OTHER DISADVANTAGES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM DEFERRAL, A POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE TO WRAP UP THE PRESENT PERMREPS REPORT, ENDORSING THE NIKE HERCULES SITE CONVERSIONS THAT ARE PRESENTLY AGREED BY NATIONS, THUS PERMITTING AT LEAST SOME ACTIONS TO PROCEED. WE COULD INCLUDE A CLAUSE IN THE PERMREPS REPORT THAT NATIONS CONCERNED AND THE NMA'S COULD REVIEW FURTHER CONVERSION OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVELY, ENSURE THAT THE PERMREPS REPORT DOES NOT CONTAIN LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD IMPLY THAT THE PRESENTLY AGREED CONVERSIONS WERE THE UPPER LIMIT OF CHANGE. (NOTE: WE WOULD SEE ANY SUCH REVIEW AS SEPARATE FROM THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF NUCLEAR AIR DEFENSE SUGGESTED IN THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT.) END COMMENT.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF SEVERAL ALLIES, US REP REVIEWED US VIEWS ON HANDLING TNF MODERNIZATION AT THE DPC AND SUMMIT (REF C) WHICH AMBASSADOR BENNETT HAD PRESENTED AT THE APRIL 6 NPG PERMREPS MEETING (REF D, PARA 23). ALLIED REPS' COMMENTS INDICATED THAT THEIR THINKING COINCIDED WITH US VIEWS. GERMAN, ITALIAN, AND DANISH REPS ALSO SUPPORTED US REP'S SUGGESTIONS THAT THE NPG SHOULD SEND ITS REPORT ON TNF MODERNIZATION DIRECTLY TO THE DPC, RATHER THAN PROVIDING IT AS AN ANNEX TO THE EWG REPORT ON
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THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

4. ALLIED REPS SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF THE MODERNIZATION STEPS THE US ENVISIONED FOR LANCE AND THE 8" HOWITZER, REFLECTED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ON ERW. US REP SAID HE DID NOT HAVE DETAILED INFORMATION, BUT REPEATED FOR THE STAFF GROUP THE UNCLASSIFIED STATEMENT THE DOD ISSUED ON APRIL 7 (REF E, SECTION V). BENNETT

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